

HOW A WOMAN DEFENDED HERSELF FROM A "SLUNG SHOT" IN NEW YORK.

"I Was Confronted With a Woman Swinging a Weapon.—I Hit Out at Her with All My Might.—I Hit Her Hard Twice. Once Under the Chin. Once Under the Ear."



Can a woman defend herself when assailed in her home or on the streets by a person with murderous intent? Miss Alexandra Martens, Europe's prize beauty, answers "yes" to this question. Last week she proved that she is able and ready to defend herself in any emergency.

While on her way home from Hammerstein's Olympia Miss Martens was assaulted by the wife of a highwayman who had robbed her on Broadway a few days before, and whom she had packed off to jail. The assailant had carefully planned her attack, and at a signal from one of three men, who accompanied her, swung a stocking filled with gravel at the actress's head, intending to knock her down and probably kill her. Miss Martens realized her danger before the weapon reached its mark, and almost as quick as thought had laid her assailant low with two blows on the head.

The expert way in which Miss Martens disposed of the miscreant she explained to a Sunday Journal reporter, and she also consented to pose for the pictures on this page showing the way she did it. The pictures speak for themselves.

"This was not the first time I have had occasion to defend myself single handed," she said, in explaining how she did it, "and I am not sure it will be the last. It was only an instantaneous perception of the assault that made me realize that I was in immediate personal danger. I turned around suddenly in the glare of a big electric lamp. I was confronted with

a woman swinging a weapon I divined was deadly at a glance.

"My hands were all I had to defend myself with and I used them exactly as I had been taught since childhood.

"I hit out at her with all my might. I hit her twice.

"If I hadn't knocked the woman senseless the papers would probably now be writing my obituary, or watching me as I lay suffering in some of the hospitals. As it is I am very glad if the lesson may be of value to other women."

"I hit her hard twice. Once under the chin. Once under the ear.

"She dropped.

"I ran into the house.

"I looked out of the window. I saw the creature's three companions carrying her away.

"I can box and probably use my fists as well as any woman living," added the beauty, after her report of the bout, "but I only practise and study this as I would any other healthy exercise. Every woman should spend as much time developing her muscles as she does her fingers on a piano. When I, a foreigner and almost unknown professional woman, am open to robbery and attacks on the public streets, what protection can the known wealthy and bejeweled woman have?"

"I remember every detail of the encounter with my assailant, and never for a moment realized that I needed the protection of anybody else besides myself.

"I swung myself full around and landed my right fist on the woman's chin. This made her



stagger, but I was not taking any chances, and struck her again on the face with my left fist, knocking her down."

"When she struck at me I warded the blow just as if I had been used to such attacks. Then I swung myself around and landed my right fist on the woman's chin. This made her stagger, but I was not taking any chances, and struck her again on the face with my left fist, knocking her down. Somehow or other I grabbed her weapon and held it while I struck her the second time. Since then I have resumed my lessons in boxing and shall stick to them till I am compelled to leave this city and its many exciting episodes."

This is all exactly as Miss Martens told it. She not only has science.

She has sense.

HIBERNATES LIKE A SNAKE.

A New Jersey Man Who Sleeps Through the Winter Months.

Bears and snakes at the approach of winter retire to their caves or holes, pass into a lethargic or trance-like state, and hibernate until spring time. The fakirs of India are credited with the ability to lie as dead for months at a time. New Jersey, that land of marvels, has just produced a man who claims that it is his custom each winter to duplicate the hibernation of the bear or the cataleptic trance of the fakir. The remarkable story comes from Somerville, New Jersey, and with

much circumstantiality tells how a party of hunters, while beating the woods near Liberty Corners, found a man asleep under two umbrellas. His feet and legs were bound with voluminous bandages of old bagging and carpet, beneath the outside wrappers of which were layers of dried leaves and straw. Inside of his clothing leaves and straw were also closely stuffed. Outside of his clothing again was a complete armor of plaited straw and leaves, which he had woven with some skill.

When found he bore the general appearance of a large plant or tree that had been wrapped up for the winter, as is the manner of gardeners.

He was awakened with difficulty and seemed to resent the intrusion. He talked in a rambling way and seemed to be of clouded mind. He refused to give his name, and would only admit that he was sixty years of age, an umbrella mender by occupation and that it had been his intention to sleep where he was until spring. He claimed to have been in his shelter for a week, during which time he had not eaten food, nor felt the want of it. He also claimed that he had wrapped himself up snugly during the first week of December, 1895, and remained without food and in a sound sleep until the last of the following February. He was taken to the county poor farm, where his story is not believed, as he eats regularly, but sleeps at least eighteen hours out of the twenty-four. The physician in charge looks upon him as a lunatic who is under a delusion.

NELLY AND BABY, THE PET SEALS AT THE AQUARIUM, WHOSE LITTLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE ALMOST HUMAN.

The Aquarium in Castle Garden has proved as great a source of delight as its most sanguine promoters could have hoped. Of all its occupants, none receives more attention than the two young seals that amuse the public all day with their tricks.

The fish excite interest because they are so strange and curious, and different from anything that lives on the land. The seals owe their popularity to another cause, for they have all the best qualities of those animals which are most companionable to man.

The elder of the seals is Nelly, an amiable and beautiful creature, two years and six months old. The other is her brother, and is not yet full grown, on which account he is known as Baby.

They are of the variety known as harbor seals and were caught on the coast of New Hampshire. These seals are fairly common along the northern coast of this country, and do not differ greatly in appearance from the fur seals, although they are somewhat smaller. They are distinguished above all other seals for their intelligence and amiability.

They are brown in color and have silvery stomachs. They grow to a length of four to five feet. A heavy mustache helps to give an amusing expression to their round, little heads and conveys a certain suggestion of a New York policeman. As a matter of fact, you do not see the policeman of the ocean until you have seen the walrus.

The harbor seals in a wild state as well as in captivity are noted for their pleasant and playful ways. The explorer who suc-

ceeds in getting near enough to a seal party on a rock sees a sight more amusing than any provided by Barnum's circus. A slight fault they have is of howling dismally at night. They make a noise like the cry of a hungry baby.

Nelly is decidedly the more vivacious of the two seals in the Aquarium. She has already learned many amusing tricks, although her education is yet in an elementary stage. She comes promptly when she is called, stands up on her divided tail and most politely shakes flippers with the keeper. Then when she is told to go and play she turns a somersault into the water and there performs many feats of aquatic gymnastics. She is able to stay under water three or four hours, but that is not a feat Nelly feels called upon to perform in the Aquarium. It is one she would resort to in a storm at sea. She seems to be greatly pleased with her commodious tank.

Nelly's conduct and attitude are very much like those of a dog. She has bright eyes, with which she follows every movement of the keeper. Just as a dog would, she pants and barks as she gazes eagerly at him and struggles forward on her flippers. To see her stand up on her hind flippers and look inquiringly about her is a sight which fascinates the crowd.

She eats two pounds of fish daily. When a meal time approaches she may be observed to leap excitedly into the air from the water, in the hope of catching a glimpse of the food over the railing.

It is supposed that Baby needs more rest than his sister, because he is still growing. He spends a considerable part of his time



asleep. Then Nelly will steal up to him and nip him smartly in the flipper. This irritates the youth, and he turns on the disturber. A brief mill follows, in which Baby is invariably worsted.

At times they play together amicably, wrestling and chasing one another through the water. They play tag in the water in a way that should set a stimulating example to small boys.

It is a curious natural development that the seals should be such intelligent and affectionate animals. As they live in the water it is reasonable to expect them to be dull and cold creatures, partaking to a certain extent of the character of fishes. But they are as far removed from that as possible. The cold water evidently has no effect beyond the surface. Perhaps it is the thickness and excellence of their fur, which preserves the warmth of their nature.

They show an intelligence which gives them a very high rank among animals. They lead a community life which is highly interesting and varies greatly among different tribes. A spirit of order and a desire for entertainment seem, however, to prevail in all of them.

Those who wish to study the interesting and peculiar qualities of the seal will find an excellent opportunity provided by Nelly and Baby at the Aquarium. They are deservedly winning a position among the most popular characters in the city.

The seal is capable of learning a surprising number of accomplishments. No animal excepting the pig has proved himself more useful in public exhibitions and

better able to perform feats of an intellectual nature. Learned pigs have been known since the remotest antiquity, but seals are now their rivals in erudition.

London was recently entertained by a talking seal. This animal did not articulate very clearly when he tried to speak English, but perhaps he would have done better in a language more suited to his vocal organs. "Mamma" was the word which he pronounced most distinctly, and very touching it was to hear him say it, for he had doubtless been brutally snatched from the arms of a loving parent in Alaska or some other distant place. All his remarks were full of meaning and expression. When asked if he would like to fish he squeaked "yes" in a most unmistakable manner. He also had a very graceful way of returning thanks for a plug of tobacco. It was one of his many peculiarities to be fond of chewing.

The seal has shown himself able to read as well as any other animal. He may be taught to combine letters of the alphabet so that they spell things which he needs.

The seal is somewhat hampered out of the water by the fact that he has flippers instead of paws and hands, but he is still able to do wonders. To see him use his flippers is like watching the efforts of a determined man with a wooden leg.

It is to be hoped that the seals in the Aquarium will live long and be happy and have an opportunity to develop all the talent that is in them. Their amusing ways and their pleasant manners will always bring in interested crowds of visitors to them. They will be sure of finding all their efforts appreciated.

